Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A holographic recording and reproducing method for recording holographic data in and reproducing holographic data from a holographic recording medium comprising a recording layer in which data are to be recorded as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam and a reference beam thereonto, a beam spot incidence region for the signal beam and the reference beam disposed on the opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in the direction of signal beam and reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium and a filter region formed in at least a part of a periphery of the beam spot incidence region, the holographic recording and reproducing method comprising:

setting a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof equal to or smaller than a minimum width of the beam spot incidence region; and

projecting the signal beam or the reference beam onto the holographic recording medium.

2. (Withdrawn) The holographic recording and reproducing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the beam spot incidence region and the filter region have different optical constants from each other.

3. (Withdrawn) The holographic recording and reproducing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

4. (Withdrawn) The holographic recording and reproducing method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

5. (Currently Amended) A holographic recording medium comprising:

a recording layer in which data are to be recorded as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam and a reference beam thereonto;

a reflective layer disposed on an opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in a direction of the signal beam and the reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium, the reflective layer including a beam spot incidence region for reflecting the signal beam and the reference beam toward the recording layer projected thereonto via the recording layer; and

~~a beam spot incidence region of the signal beam and the reference beam disposed on the opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in the direction of signal beam and reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium; and~~

a filter region formed ~~in~~ at ~~least a part of~~ a periphery of the beam spot incidence region and having a property of scattering or absorbing the signal beam and the reference beam projected thereonto via the recording layer, the filter region being configured to receive only a non-collimated portion of the signal beam or the reference beam projected thereonto via the recording layer, a minimum width of the beam spot incidence region being ~~set~~ substantially equal to ~~or larger than~~ a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 5, wherein the beam spot incidence region and the filter region have different optical constants from each other.

7. (Previously Presented) The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 5, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

8. (Previously Presented) The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 6, wherein the beam spot incidence region is constituted as a reflection region of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the filter region is constituted as an absorption region of the signal beam and the reference beam.

9. (Withdrawn) A holographic recording medium comprising:

a recording layer in which data are to be recorded as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam and a reference beam thereonto; and

a reflective surface disposed on the opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in the direction of signal beam and reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium and formed with a convex pattern or a concave pattern having a trapezoidal cross-section, a minimum width of a convex surface of the convex pattern or a concave surface of the concave pattern being set equal to or larger than a beam spot diameter of the signal beam or the reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 9, wherein the convex surface of the convex pattern or the concave surface of the concave pattern is shaped substantially circular in the direction of the signal beam or the reference beam incident on the holographic recording medium.

11. (Withdrawn) The holographic recording medium in accordance with claim 9, wherein the convex surface of the convex pattern or the concave surface of the concave pattern is shaped to be band-like in the direction of the signal beam or the reference beam incident on the holographic recording medium.

12. (New) A holographic recording medium comprising:

a recording layer configured to record data as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam or a reference beam onto the recording layer; and

a reflective layer disposed on an opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in a direction of the signal beam and the reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium, the reflective layer including a first region for reflecting the signal or reference beam toward the recording layer projected thereonto via the recording layer, and a second region formed at a periphery of the first region configured to absorb the signal or reference beam or divert the signal or reference beam from being reflected toward the recording layer, a width of the first region being selected from a minimum width substantially equal to a beam spot diameter of the signal or reference beam at a diffraction limit thereof, and a maximum width smaller than an actual beam spot diameter of the signal or reference beam.

13. (New) A holographic recording medium comprising:

a recording layer configured to record data as phase information of light by projecting a signal beam or a reference beam onto the recording layer; and

a reflective layer disposed on an opposite side of the recording layer as viewed in a direction of the signal beam and the reference beam incidence on the holographic recording medium, the reflective layer including a first region for reflecting the signal or reference beam toward the recording layer projected thereonto via the recording layer, and a second region formed at a periphery of the first region configured to absorb the signal or reference beam or divert the signal or reference beam from being reflected toward the recording layer, a width of the first region being selected such that the first region receives all of a collimated portion of the signal or reference beam and only a portion of a non-collimated portion of the signal or reference beam.

14. (New) The holographic recording medium according to claim 13 wherein the first region is flat and the second region is angled with respect to the first region.